

# Minnekotan

## Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

August 2024



### A Message from the Governor

In about a week, we meet in Watertown for the 2024 District Convention and the number of registrations is up and I look forward to meeting you all. I especially appreciate the number of clubs that are sending delegates this year. I want to send out my appreciation to Racheal Disrud, Cindy Braseth and Carol Nitschke for all their time planning and working with the Watertown club members to make this a memorable and fun Education Conference and we have already started to plan the 2025 DCON in Willmar Minnesota.

Our Conferences provide education on club leadership and growth as a community leader. We always enjoy those that return on a regular basis but to truly grow your club, clubs need to inspire new members to attend the District or Divisional Education conferences. Once they attend, they will want to attend again and again.

We are continually grateful for the support that Kiwanis International gives us. While membership should be a focus for us every month in Kiwanis, I call on Kiwanis members to place a special emphasis on membership growth in 2024-2025 and use the

Membership growth materials that are available from Kiwanis International for clubs to build membership.

We need to grow and the children and communities we serve need us to grow!

I challenge you to think about how you recruit members. Are you talking with school principals, administrators, church leaders, mayors, friends and neighbors? Do you follow through with prospective members recruitment? Have you looked at the two for two materials?

I challenge you to think about building loyalty. In these busy times, what is your member retention strategy? Do you have one?

I challenge you to use every tool in your membership toolbox, review the Kiwanis International club building programs online, and think about other things you can do. Invite a potential member to lunch or plan a cookout for a few of your Kiwanis friends and invite people you think would be outstanding Kiwanians.

The challenge belongs to us all to grow Kiwanis so we can keep the promises for children and communities today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Bradley Knudson



## A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Our Kiwanis year is almost over and there is still so much to do. The district convention is one week away. I am thrilled to see almost half of our clubs sending members this year, many of them first timers! That's exciting!

I have a feeling it's because the House of Delegates will be discussing and voting on a dues increase for the district. We have not had an increase in our district dues since 2007. You can read the Resolution on our webpage: <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/dcon/>

Remember last year when we all brought cowboy hats to honor Bert West? This year we are asking you to bring a Lighthouse figurine to honor our current International President Katrina Baranko. She has a thing for them so that's our tribute to her. These will be auctioned off at some point during the convention so don't spend a lot because you won't get it back.

There are several articles within this issue of other items we need you to bring with you and some other fun stuff that we're planning. So, read this all the way to the end!! I will also send out another email for those of you who are registered as a final reminder.

## Highlights from Kiwanis International Convention

As you all are aware, the International Convention was held in Denver about a month ago. We had a large contingent of members from MNDK attend. We had this great showing because one of ours, Dan Leikvold, was running for the position of International Vice President. Unfortunately, Dan did not win. But we made it clear that even though we're small, we are mighty and I think we were noticed. Thank you to all those who attended and represented our district so well.

There were several amendments that were passed at the convention. Of note, the proposal from the KI Board to increase dues by \$25 per year (from \$52 to \$77) passed with over 80% of those present voting in favor. This increase will be effective October 1, 2024. Also passed was an amendment to decrease the size of the International board by 2 trustees and decrease the tier structure from 3 tiers to 2.

Remote voting was also on the docket and was again defeated. It appears that members just are not ready for having members not at the convention being able to vote.

For a full breakdown of the elections and all of the amendments go to:  
<https://www.kiwanis.org/lee-kuan-yong-elected-2024-25-president-of-kiwanis-international/>

Sharon Scudder  
District Leadership  
and Development  
Coordinator



## LIVE, LAUGH AND LEARN IN August

Club Leadership Education (CLE) is so important and coming virtually on the following dates and times: you must register:

[https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/virtual\\_cle2024](https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/virtual_cle2024)

- August 5 Club Presidents Zoom 7pm CT and 6pm MT
- August 6 Club Secretary 7pm CT and 6pm MT
- August 12 Club Treasurer 7pm CT and 6pm MT
- August 13 Membership Chair 7pm CT and 6pm MT

All calls will be recorded and recordings will be made available. All participants will need to complete a form afterwards to receive credit Before September 15, 2024.

Be prepared for your new position and ease the stress of the unknown and learn in advance through CLE. There will be CLE training at the District Convention in Watertown also. Come and experience the training and networking. See you there.

Just a reminder for those who are registered for the Amplify program, you must complete all your courses by September 30, 2024.

## 2024 District Convention



Dear MNDK Kiwanis friends

It is with positive anticipation that we prepare for the convention in Watertown.

What can you look forward to? You can come on Thursday evening, Friday, Saturday, Sunday or one day. We hope you will be with us the entire time, but we will be happy to have when you are available.

Thursday evening, tour downtown Watertown with music and food - hosted by the Watertown Kiwanis Club. Friday, begin with a sandwich buffet for lunch, followed by the opening session with Keynote Ty Eschenbaum. There will be workshops in the afternoon and an evening at the Terry Redlin Art Center.

Saturday, gather with your division caucus, more workshops, the awards luncheon at noon, business session, Governor's banquet and evening social. Sunday, remember and honor those who have paved the way for us and have passed from this earth.

FYI:

Meals are included with your registration. Breakfast is included with your hotel room. Enjoy Watertown. There is a lovely lake, splash pad downtown, historic tours of a former governor's home and more.

## Seeking Silent Auction Items for Convention

by: Paula Deckert

The Silent Auction event will be conducted during the MNDAK District Convention as it has in the past. We encourage clubs to donate items for this fundraiser - this year's silent auction proceeds will go to the Outreach Fund. This fund helps SLPs in our district. We will give donation credit to each club for the amount their item(s) raise.

We often have a nice variety of donations. Use your creativity! Items that go well are things like wine basket, snack basket, picnic basket, gift cards tend to go really well (try to stick to national chain places or a generic Visa/MasterCard type). It seems that framed art and outdated items don't fare as well on the auction.

Payment at the conclusion of the auction may be made in cash, check, or Venmo. Use your imagination and let's make this a great fundraising event!!

If you have questions please contact Paula Deckert at [paula.deckert@state.sd.us](mailto:paula.deckert@state.sd.us).



## District Convention Memorial Service

Our Sunday Morning Kiwanian Memorial Service at the upcoming

*In Loving Memory*

2024 District Convention in Watertown is nearing. This service is a time for us to remember all the Kiwanians who have passed away since last year's convention. To make this memorable service we ask for your help by sending the names of those in your Club who have passed away. For the service we will be creating a PowerPoint program with a slide with a picture and short obituary as recognition.

We ask the Club Secretary or other Club Officer to send a list with the name and a link to the funeral home that provided the burial service. In most cases we can pull the information from the Funeral home obituary for the personal Power Point slide. If a funeral home online obituary is not available, please send what you have available for the PowerPoint slide.

Please email your Club list and information to Dave and Paulette Odette at [odette@wiktel.com](mailto:odette@wiktel.com) Please send us your list by July 20th. This will give us the needed time to prepare the service booklet of names given out on Sunday morning and the PowerPoint program.

## Show Division Pride at Convention

On Friday evening, we will be going to the Redlin Art Center and in the spirit of the theme "TEAM" (Together Each Achieves More), Karen Davis and Katie Landwehr have planned some added fun for that event. They have assigned each division "team" a theme:

Red, White, and Blue - Div 1

Polka Dot - Div 2

Sports Jersey/apparel - Div 3 (any sport is fine, doesn't have to be professional)

Tie-Dye - Div 4

Hawaiian - Div 5

Plaid - Div 6

Disney - Div 7

Get into the spirit! I can't wait to see what everyone comes up with for their outfits.

## Kiwanis Attire at DCON!

by Linda McEntee

Kiwanians- get ready for something new at our convention! The Mitchell, SD club has started making Kiwanis shirts, and we will have a nice variety for you to choose from.

Kiwanis themed t-shirts, sweatshirts, and long sleeved denim shirts will be for sale. We'll have sizes from S-4X. Stop by our booth and see what we have. Great prices!

\$4 from each shirt sold at convention will be donated back to the MinnDak District. If you'd like to see options before the big event, here's a website with photos and prices: <https://k00449.site.kiwanis.org/kiwanis-attire/>

Email: [mitchellkiwanis@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchellkiwanis@yahoo.com)

## Why Membership Matters

By Dave Harms, Lake City Kiwanis

**\*The Power of Belonging: Why Membership Matters\***

Membership in an organization can be a transformative experience, offering a sense of belonging, connection, and purpose. When we join a group that aligns with our values and interests, we become part of a community that shares our passions and goals, and what could be a better goal than giving a child an opportunity, teaching them leadership, and service to others. We do, we are Kiwanis.

Membership provides opportunities for growth, learning, and networking. We gain access to exclusive resources, training, and events that help us develop new skills all while making new and lifelong friends. We also meet like-minded individuals who inspire and support us, helping to foster a sense of camaraderie and collaboration, and share in common goals.

Moreover, membership gives us a voice and a platform to make a difference. By contributing to a collective effort, we can drive change, influence decisions, and shape the future of our community. In today's world, belonging to an organization is more important than ever. It provides a sense of identity, community, and belonging – essential elements for personal satisfaction in knowing that you had a part in molding the future that will be in good hands.

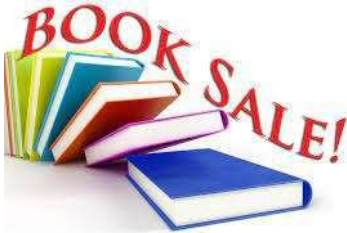
# Convention Service Project

Dave Harms, Service Director



With the District Convention just days away! Now is the time to start thinking about how our clubs can support the Service project that we have chosen for our Convention in Watertown, SD this year. The greatest need for support in the area was determined to be School Supplies, and that can range from Pencils to Backpacks.

So, please start acquiring those supplies, so that we can again display our Kiwanis commitment to change the world one child and one community at a time. Thank you for your generosity and support to that end.



## 2024 Convention Used Book Sale

By Laura Tjomsland

Time is getting closer for this big event. Get your previously read books gathered up. If you stop by the store to pick up some groceries, have them loaded in a paper bag and bring that along with your books. Paper bags make the "Bag Sale" easy for your take home books. Volunteer helpers are needed to make this a success.



## Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation

Sherry Scudder, Board Member

As we meet at the District Convention in Watertown, August 9-11. Our service project this year is school supplies and would appreciate your contribution as we realize school is starting soon.

As we prepare for the school year, we should think about preparing our clubs to seek out new students to recruit to become scholarship awardees of the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Scholarship Funds. Help inform the students, teachers and school administrators of the upcoming application process. You can also help your club by suggesting a budget to assist supplementing the dollar amount needed.

Remind your members and friends that their contributions to the Educational Funds are tax deductible. Keep in mind a contribution will make a great Christmas gift to recognize special members or those in the community who do so much for their community through the following: Century Club Membership for Kiwanis Clubs – Vantine Life Fellowship for members or individuals – Joseph E. Messer Fellowship Membership and also Memorial Contributions for loved ones or fellow Kiwanian members.

Application process will be coming out soon. Be prepared when information is distributed. Help our students to have a better life with the aid we can give them to continue their education.



## Kiwanis International Children's Fund BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathy Welle, District Children's Fund  
Chair

*The official announcement was presented to attendees at the Kiwanis ICON in Denver during the week of July 4th.*

The Kiwanis Children's Fund is the fundraising arm of Kiwanis International. For members, a gift to the Children's Fund is a way to amplify the impact they make in kids' lives.

That's because we turn gifts into grants that support Kiwanis projects around the world. We also partner with other organizations — and with Kiwanis clubs of all sizes, helping them apply for grants and funding projects that serve kids

**The Possibility Project is a Five-year project to raise \$25,000,000.00.** The good news is that during the silent phase of the project, contributions given from October 2022 to September 2023, plus funds given from October 2023 through September 2024, are counted toward the Possibility Project. So far, over \$5,000,000.00 has been raised for the project.

### Ways to Give to the Children's Fund

The Kiwanis Children's Fund is grateful for the extraordinary support it receives. Each donor — whether a club or a member —

is a valued partner in our efforts to improve the lives of children around the world.

That's why we recognize your generosity with the following memberships and honors. These awards can be used to give special recognition to club officers for appreciation of their dedication and commitment to Kiwanis.

#### **George F. Hixson Fellowship**

Recognizes a club, individual or other donor for an unrestricted gift of US\$1,000 or more.

#### **Dr. Wil Blechman Fellowship**

Recognizes an individual for an unrestricted gift of US\$2,500 or more.

#### **Founders Circle**

Honors individuals and couples whose ongoing gifts to the Kiwanis Children's Fund meet or exceed US\$25,000.

#### **Cornerstone Society**

Recognizes individuals and couples who make a three-year commitment to the Kiwanis Children's Fund totaling at least US\$15,000.

[#KidsNeedKiwanis](#)



A short concise word document or even text in the body of an email will work.

Email: [kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com](mailto:kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com)

## New Park Bench in Watertown



Pictured are Richard & Karen Weber (Becky's parents) along with sons Travis (Amanda) Weber; Jared (Cheyenne) and three of the Weber's grandchildren.

The Watertown S.D. Kiwanis Club dedicated a new park bench during Thursday Night "Live" on June 11th honoring their late treasurer Becky Weber who passed away unexpectedly on April 1st at the age of 32. Becky was instrumental in helping the Watertown Club donate \$25,000 for a splash pad in the new Watertown Community Foundation Plaza.

## Have a Great Service Project to Share?

You can feature it here in the Minnekotan. Just email Cindy Braseth, District Secretary Treasurer with an article and a photo or two and watch for it in an upcoming issue.

## Rochester Golden K Steps Up to Support Family Promise

Family Promise is a national organization dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness for families with children through a community-based response. Family Promise Rochester has recently acquired a new, second, home which will accommodate a large number of families once it is ready for occupation this fall.



In a recent presentation to our club we heard of their need for bedding, household goods, and other items to ready the home for occupation in the fall. Under the leadership of Jeannine Hadley, one of our members, Rochester Golden K organized a "goods drive" with its members and friends. The first installment of our donations were delivered to Family Promise in June.





Pictured L to R are: Mike Sheehan, Jeannine Hadley, Dan McCoy, Rita McCoy, Dan Sherman and Erin Stillwell, Executive Director Family Promise Rochester.



## Kiwanis Kid's Day in Willmar

On Wednesday June 19, 2024, the Willmar Kiwanis club held their second annual "Kiwanis Kids Day" event in Willmar, Minnesota. At the event, we had different activities and free food for the children. Activities included bounce houses, knocker ball, face painting, fairy hair, henna painting, clowns that made balloons for the children, and interactive drums.

Our big entertainment was a children's music and entertainment group called "The Jolly Pops", who provide children's music and entertainment. During the festivities, we handed out approximately 1,000 hot dogs, chips, and water to kids and their parents.

We also had our local Dairy Association handing out an ice cream treats to the children. We also had a Kiwanis and Key Club booth to educate and attract new members to both organizations. To attract event attendees to the booth, we had three different drawings for gift cards, and were able to talk to kids and parents about the two clubs and hand out flyers and information about Kiwanis while signing them up for the drawings.

The drawings consisted of two children's prizes, one for new potential Key Club members, and the last drawing was for new potential Kiwanis members. We also had a service project for the children, which was putting together alphabet tracing materials for Grow Mobile backpacks for kids at the beginning of the new school year. We look forward to next year's event and the growing attendance of our community families.